

The Eagle.

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Silver	61
Lead	3.00

NECESSARY APPROPRIATIONS.

Unless the coming session of the legislature shall prove to be unlike all previous sessions of the New Mexico legislature, there will be many bills introduced to appropriate territorial funds for various purposes which would be of no practical benefit to the territory at large. Most of these bills will probably be killed, but it may be that the coming legislature will make as serious a mistake in appropriating money as was made for a school of mines at Socorro. A fine building, one of the finest in New Mexico, was erected, a high salaried professor was engaged and the school of mines was opened. It was soon ascertained that there were not enough young men in New Mexico who desired to take a course in a school of mines to make it worth while to keep the school open and it was closed when the number of students in attendance had dwindled down to one whose education was costing the territory about a thousand dollars a month.

The appropriation made by the last legislature for the purpose of erecting a normal school here was much smaller than that made for the school of mines, but within two months after the normal school was opened, there was an attendance of over fifty pupils. There is a need for a good normal school here where young men and women can prepare themselves for teaching in the schools of the territory. A training in such a school fits them better for their work and its effect will be seen in the schools all over the New Mexico within a few years at the most. The need of good schools in this territory is too apparent to require demonstration. It has been only a short time since the territory had a school law which was worthy of the name and the school system is yet far from being perfect. Good teachers are needed and in order to have good teachers it is imperative that they have ample opportunity to fit themselves for teaching.

A liberal appropriation for the com-

pletion of the normal school building here and for the maintenance of the school is needed. This, of course, is not the only territorial institution which needs and ought to have an increased appropriation. Among the worthy and deserving institutions is the insane asylum at Las Vegas and the need of an increased appropriation for this institution is imperative. The insane people of the territory must be properly cared for. It is a disgrace to our civilization to keep these poor unfortunates in the county jails where it is impossible to give them the proper care and attention which they ought to receive. It would be better to curtail some of the other expenses of the territory and increase the appropriation for the insane asylum rather than allow the present state of affairs to continue.

ELECTION LAWS.

D. P. Carr, member elect of the legislature from this county, has prepared a bill which provides for many changes in the laws relating to elections.

The bill provides that each of the counties in the territory shall pay for the printing of the ballots to be used in general elections and restricts the number to be printed to one thousand more for each party than double the number of votes cast for delegate in the county at the preceding election. The same number of ballots shall be printed for each of the political parties and all shall be of uniform size, color and style except as to the device to be printed on each party ticket.

The ballots shall be delivered to the probate clerk who shall send them to each of the precincts in the county in the ballot boxes. No ballots will be distributed among the voters until the day of election and then only to voters as they come into the polling place to vote, when one ticket of either or each political party, as the voter may desire, will be handed to him by one of the judges of election. The voter then retires to a booth to prepare his ticket, and when it has been prepared it must be returned folded to one of the judges of election and by him stamped "voted" and placed in the ballot box. If the voter has called for more than one ticket, the other or others must also be returned folded to the judge of election and the tickets so returned must be stamped "not voted" and placed in a box provided for their reception.

The bill provides that a voter must prepare his ballot without assistance unless he is unable to read and write or is prevented from preparing his ballot by reason of physical disability, and it must be prepared in a booth provided for that purpose, even though a straight ticket be voted and the only preparation

required being the folding of the ticket.

Provision is made in the bill for the accurate accounting for all ballots sent out to the various polling places and those returned both voted and not voted, so that fraudulent voting could be easily detected. The pay of judges and clerks of election is also provided for, being three dollars each in the smallest precincts and six dollars in the largest precincts.

The bill covers the ground thoroughly and there are few objectionable features in it. These may be remedied, making the bill a very desirable measure. Should it become a law, it would prevent "working" voters and would go a long way toward purifying the ballot.

RESIDENTS of this territory should make up their minds now not to be too badly disappointed if the bill for the admission of New Mexico to the union should not be passed at this session of congress. It must be admitted by even the most enthusiastic advocate of statehood that the prospects for admission are not very bright. If this congress fails to pass the bill providing for the admission of New Mexico, there is little reason to believe that the territory will be admitted during the present administration. Even if the enabling act should be passed there is no certainty that the voters of the territory would adopt a constitution. It is too early to commence the selection of state officers.

BANKER ST. JOHN, of New York, has a plan which he thinks would be of great benefit to silver and which we print on another page. Mr. St. John proposes to take from the silver dollar its legal tender quality and proposes to have certificates issued for silver deposited for coinage. His plan might work all right in the end, but the removal of the legal tender quality from the silver dollar would discredit it at once and nobody would want to take silver. Let the legal tender quality remain and the rest of Mr. St. John's plan is all right. Give us free coinage and let the silver dollar be a legal tender to any amount as it is now and the financial trouble would pass away before the winter storms are over.

THERE are so many contests over the election of members of the legislature that it is difficult to state how the legislature will stand, but at this time it looks as though the democrats would have both branches of the legislature. The council is regarded as certainly democratic and there seems to be little room for doubt as to the house being democratic.

Cuckoo clocks are going out of favor. They may be purchased at the bargain counter at greatly reduced prices.